

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 23 May 2019)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Council for Sustainable Development's public engagement on long-term decarbonization strategy

June 2019

The Administration will seek members' views on the issues raised for the public engagement on long-term decarbonization strategy to be launched by the Council for Sustainable Development, and report the progress of its work on combating climate change.

As suggested by Mr CHU Hoi-dick at the meeting on 12 October 2017, members agreed that the topic of climate change should be brought up for discussion by the Panel every year. At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHU further proposed that the Administration should review its targets and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with reference to the findings in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018; and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Administration should brief members on the use of new technologies to combat climate change, thereby contributing to the development of a "smart environment". On 28 March 2019, Dr QUAT wrote to the Chairman (LC Paper No. CB(1)929/18-19(01)) appealing for early discussion of the topic.

2. Holistic fisheries management strategy in marine parks

June 2019

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed enhancement to the holistic fisheries management strategy in marine parks, with a view to promoting the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry as well as facilitating the management of marine parks and direction towards conservation.

The Administration plans to introduce a relevant legislative proposal into the Legislative Council in October 2019 and submit a relevant financial proposal to the Finance Committee in December 2019.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- 3. Provision of sewerage network in North District** June 2019
- The Administration will seek the Panel's views on the proposed upgrading of part of 4339DS – North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 phase 1 to Category A. The project aims to construct sewerage network for village areas in Fanling.
- The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in October and November 2019 respectively.
- 4. Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury ("the Convention") in Hong Kong** July 2019
- The Administration will brief the Panel on the background and the requirements of the Convention, and the scope and approach of the proposed legislation enabling Hong Kong to effectively discharge its obligations under the Convention.
- 5. Review of the Seventh Technical Memorandum ("TM") for Allocation of Emission allowances for Power Plants** July 2019
- The Administration will seek members' views on the legislative proposal to further reduce emission allowances for power plants starting from 1 January 2024 by way of issuing a new TM under section 26G of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311).
- 6. Enhanced protection of green turtles** 4th quarter of 2019
- The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed measures to further enhance the protection of green turtles.
- 7. Management of waste paper and waste plastics** To be confirmed
- Management of waste paper
- As suggested by Mr Kenneth LEUNG at the meeting on 12 October 2017, members requested the Administration to step up efforts to reduce use of paper towels in public toilets.
- Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 27 February 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)663/17-18(01)) proposing discussion on the recycling of waste paper, including the Administration's policy on supporting the local recycling of waste paper.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Management of waste plastics

In his letter to the Chairman dated 24 November 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)281/17-18(01)), Mr KWOK Wai-keung proposed discussion on the regulation of the manufacturing and sale of products containing microplastics in Hong Kong. The Administration's written response was circulated to members on 15 December 2017 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)360/17-18(01).

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 6 June 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1084/17-18(01)) proposing discussion on the regulation of single-use plastic products.

- 8. Management of marine fill and marine disposal of dredged/excavated sediment** To be confirmed

The Administration will brief the Panel on the management of marine fill and disposal of dredged/excavated sediments by the project owners.

The subject was raised by Mr Steven HO at the meeting on 15 December 2014.

At the meeting on 28 November 2016, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung suggested the Panel discuss the environmental issues relating to illegal disposal of construction and demolition materials into the sea/river. The Administration advised that these issues could be discussed under this item.

- 9. Management of yard waste** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel discuss the overall management of yard waste and measures to promote reuse/recycling of such waste, including the contingency arrangements for fallen trees and branches caused by natural disasters.

- 10. Excessive external lighting and noise pollution** To be confirmed

As suggested by Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr SHIU Ka-fai at the meeting on 30 October 2017, members agreed to discuss the Administration's initiatives to regulate excessive external lighting and noise pollution.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

On 12 April 2018, the Panel received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)802/17-18(01)) arising from the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Wan Chai District Council members on 26 January 2018 concerning the nuisance caused by excessive external lighting.

11. Management of restored landfills

To be confirmed

In his letter to the Chairman dated 25 May 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1023/17-18(01)), Mr Kenneth LEUNG proposed discussion on the captioned subject, including the progress of developing public facilities on the 13 restored landfills, implementation progress of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme, and issues related to the handling of landfill gas, leachate and uneven ground settlement on the sites concerned.

12. Review of the environmental impact assessment ("EIA") system

To be confirmed

Mr Kenneth LEUNG wrote to the Chairman on 24 November 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(1)202/15-16(01)) proposing discussion on the review of the EIA system, including the arrangements for the conduct of EIAs, public consultation arrangements, and enforcement of the environmental permit conditions. The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)537/15-16(01) on 3 February 2016.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr Steven HO brought this issue up and suggested that the Administration should improve the transparency of the EIA system and public understanding of EIA reports, in anticipation of public concerns over the environmental impact of future reclamation works. In his letter to the Chairman dated 19 March 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(1)752/18-19(01)), Mr HO further expressed concerns about the ineffectiveness of EIAs in reflecting the cumulative environmental impacts of marine works projects and works related to new development areas on the agriculture and fisheries industries. The Administration's written response to the letter was circulated to members on 8 April 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)859/18-19(01).

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

13. Existing policies on bicycles and promoting bicycles as a mode of transport as an initiative to improve roadside air quality

To be confirmed

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 23 May 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1009/16-17) proposing to hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport to discuss issues relating to the existing policies on bicycles and promoting bicycles as a mode of transport. Mr HUI further wrote to the Chairman on 12 October 2017 proposing to discuss bicycle-friendly policies (LC Paper No. CB(1)86/17-18(01)).

Separately, an item on "Cycling safety and consultancy study on cycling networks and parking facilities in existing new towns" is currently on the list of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel on Transport.

14. Control of invasive alien species

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHAN Han-pan proposed discussion on the measures to cope with the threats of invasive alien species to local habitats, with particular focus on *Mikania micrantha* and *Leucaena leucocephala*.

15. Regulation of trade in bear bile products

To be confirmed

This item was raised at the meeting on 11 October 2018 by Dr Elizabeth QUAT who expressed concern about the inhumane practice of extracting bile from live bears. Members would like to be briefed on the statistics on and regulation of trading activities associated with bear bile and its products, and whether the Administration would consider prohibiting the trade in products containing bile extracted from live bears.